

IN THE CLAIMS

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are listed below.

1. A purified T-cell receptor beta-like protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
2. A variant of T-cell receptor beta-like protein having at least 90% amino acid identity to SEQ ID NO:1 and which retains IL-2 inducing activity.
13. A composition comprising a purified T-cell receptor beta-like protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 in conjunction with a pharmaceutical carrier.
24. A method for using a protein to screen a plurality of molecules or compounds to identify at least one ligand, the method comprising:
 - a) combining the protein of claim 1 with the molecules or compounds under conditions to allow specific binding; and
 - b) detecting specific binding, thereby identifying a ligand which specifically binds the protein.
25. The method of claim 24 wherein the molecules or compounds are selected from DNA molecules, RNA molecules, peptide nucleic acids, peptides, proteins, mimetics, agonists, antagonists, antibodies, immunoglobulins, inhibitors, and drugs.

26. A method of using a protein to prepare and purify antibodies comprising:

- a) immunizing a animal with the protein of claim 1 under conditions to elicit an antibody response;
- b) isolating animal antibodies;
- c) attaching the protein to a substrate;
- d) contacting the substrate with isolated antibodies under conditions to allow specific binding to the protein;
- e) dissociating the antibodies from the protein, thereby obtaining purified antibodies.